

of the aorta. Having lately had the opportunity of dissecting another specimen which died in the Zoological Gardens of this city, he called attention to a slightly different disposition of these vessels. In this case an innominate gave off the right subclavian, right vertebral, the left subclavian, and left vertebral separately, and then terminated in the two common carotids. This arrangement also differs from that described by Prof. Owen, thus illustrating the variability in the origin of the bloodvessels in these animals. The recurrent laryngeal nerve was found as described by the eminent anatomist just mentioned, that is, the lower two-thirds almost completely atrophied, while the upper third came from the pneumogastric just below the superior laryngeal.

*On the Habits of Quiscalus purpureus.*—JOSEPH WILLCOX spoke of the custom of some crow blackbirds (*Quiscalus purpureus*) of eating fish, and their method of catching them through the intervention of another animal.

Last winter when on the shore of the St. John's River, near Lake Jessup, in Florida, he observed an unusual commotion among the crow blackbirds, which were congregating near the water, and anxiously looking into it. Soon a loud splash and noise were made in the vicinity by a large bass in making a charge upon his favorite food, the small fry, which, in their frantic efforts to escape, jumped out of the water, and many of them fell upon the land.

The blackbirds, which were evidently experts at the game, immediately pounced upon the small fish and swallowed them before they had time to hop back into the water. This performance was repeated many times.

On one occasion he examined the stomach of a bass in order to ascertain what it had taken for dinner. In it he found a rat that had evidently been imprisoned only a short time.

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FEBRUARY 27.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Forty-two members present.

Frank L. Scribner and Mrs. Mary Wagner were elected members.

Prof. Alphonse Favre of Geneva, Prof. Paul De Loriol of Geneva, Baron Ferdinand Freiherrn Von Richthofen of Berlin, Dr. Ferd. Von Hochstetter of Vienna, Prof. Edouard Desor of Neuchâtel, Prof. Ludwig Rüttimeyer of Basel, Prof. Valerien De Mueller of St. Petersburg, H. Trautschold of Moscow, and Lieut. A. W. Vodges, U. S. A., were elected correspondents.

The following papers were ordered to be printed:—